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Police Department (Ret.)

June 27, 2005

Betty Mercer
Director

Coalition for a Safe and Responsible Michigan
Submitted via email to bmercer@safeandresponsible.org.

Dear Ms. Mercer:

The Law Enforcement Alliance of America supports the proposed legislation to ban all direct-to-consumer alcohol sales in the state of Michigan. As the Michigan state legislature works to harmonize its alcohol shipping laws for in-state and out-of-state producers in response to last month's Supreme Court decision, it is critical that any new legislation crafted to address the Court's ruling should not allow for the unaccountable sales of beer, wine or liquor over the Internet, by phone or through mail order catalogs – no exceptions, no exemptions.

Law enforcement is all too aware of the risks associated with underage drinking and the extreme danger posed by underage drinkers who then drive drunk. It is indisputable that America's youth are beginning to take advantage of the Internet and other forms of unaccountable home delivery services to buy alcohol without having their IDs checked. Several recent high-profile enforcement actions undertaken by state attorneys general against the growing roster of online alcohol sellers and overnight delivery companies that break state alcohol laws prove the dire threat we face.

The Law Enforcement Alliance of America and its 75,000 members and supporters nationwide commend the members of the Coalition for a Safe and Responsible Michigan for their efforts to safeguard our communities, and agree that the state must find a way to comply with the Supreme Court's decision without opening the floodgates to unregulated alcohol sales. We will support commonsense state laws to maintain alcohol controls, including support for face-to-face sales and ID checks, and thereby help our members protect and serve their local communities.

Sincerely,

Ted Deeds
Chief Operating Officer
Law Enforcement Alliance of America

Executive Staff

Executive Director
James J. Fotis
Lynbrook, New York
Police Department (Ret.)

Chief Operating Officer
Ted Deeds